

In re Patent Application of:
BEADLE ET AL
Serial No. 10/616,286
Filed: 07/09/2003

REMARKS

Claims 32-36 are currently pending.

Reconsideration of this application in light of the attached Terminal Disclaimer and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 32-36, under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 101, allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter, is respectfully traversed.

The characterization of applicants' invention, as set forth in claims 32-36, in the rejection presented in item 1, on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, is inaccurate. A re-reading of the claims is invited.

Specifically, claims 32-36 recite a method of interfacing data with a data memory using specific structures (e.g., content-addressable memory and key fields of address pointer words). That method entails a particular methodology of writing data into a storage location of the data memory and writing respective address pointer words into a plurality of respective storage regions of a content-addressable memory. Each address pointer word includes a respective key field that is used to identify the data and an address field that identifies the address of the storage location of a data memory.

In addition, claims 32-36 entail the reading of the data from the data memory by coupling a key to the key field of the address pointer words stored in the content-addressable memory and accessing the address of the storage location of the data memory from the address field of an address pointers word whose key field contains the key. The data is then read from the

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storage location of the data memory, in accordance with the address accessed, and the accessed address is coupled to the content-addressable memory to determine whether the address of the storage location of the data memory is contained in another address pointer word stored in the content-addressable memory.

A re-reading of the present application, including a review of the system diagram of Figure 1, and the specific memory interface diagrams of Figures 2-8, will make it clear that the invention of claims 32-36 does not recite non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants are not aware of any prohibition in 35 U.S.C. § 101 of the invention recited in claims 32-36. Moreover, the word "computer", which is not seen to have any bearing on the patentability of claimed subject matter, is not to be found in any of applicants' claims. Applicants are aware of no prohibition in 35 U.S.C. 101, or elsewhere, that an invention is non-statutory because it is "computer-related" whatever that means. Is the Examiner alleging that all patents directed to computers or methods of operation thereof are non-statutory? A reference to a specific statutory prohibition, if the rejection is repeated, would be appreciated.

Moreover, the allegation that the claims "merely recite" a "method of storing and reading data from memory" is inaccurate. A re-reading of the claims is invited. Applicants' invention involves the use of content-addressable memory (CAM)-based memory access control methodology to affect a high efficiency storage of data packets and distribution of an individually stored packet to one or more outputs of a high speed packet switch. The methodology defined in claims 32-36 delineates the use of such content-addressable memory, in terms of how both how the memory

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is to be written to and how it is to be read out. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As to the rejection of claims 32 and 33 on the grounds of non-statutory double patenting, attached please find a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the rejection.

Favorable reconsideration of this application and a Notice of Allowability of claims 32-36 are respectfully requested.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-0870 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, this 19 day of June 2006.

DDW